Newsletter of the
BUNCOM HISTORICAL SOCIETY
February 2002

LIVING IN THE COOKHOUSE:
A FOND MEMORY EVEN IN HARD TIMES

Join Buncom Night at Sons of San Joaquin Show March 9

Lon, Jack and Joe Hannah

It's time for another Buncom Night at the Craterian Ginger Rogers Theater in Medford. Join us Saturday night, March 9, for the great cowboy music trio, "Sons of the San Joaquin."

The Sons, who have recorded several CDs and won many awards, appear regularly at Cowboy Poetry and Music events all over the country. They don't sing Western music, they sing Cowboy music, and they sing it like you haven't heard it before. They haven't appeared in our area for several years, since the days of the Rogue River Roundup. Check them out at www.thesons.com.

On March 9 Society members will gather at 6:45 p.m. for no-host cocktails and potluck hors

(See SONS, Page 2)

(When they were boys, Society members Fred and Dan Vanderhoof lived with their family for more than a year in the Cookhouse. Fred shared this reminiscence with us.)

By Fred Vanderhoof

My family, which included by father, mother, my brother, and my sister and her husband for a brief period, plus me, lived in that cookhouse for about a year and half during the early '30s. My father was working a sluice box on the Little Applegate, taking out enough color to keep us in food.

Dan and I walked to the school at Uniontown where all eight grades were in one room. The teacher's name was Miss Maul (?) and there were probably 20-30 kids in school. Harley Hall lived up the Little Applegate and we, my brother and me, played with his boys. Ansell Gilson also had a place up the river and my dad got a 1917 Buick from him for cutting up 35 ricks of firewood. Dan and I did most of the cutting with a two-man crosscut saw.

We moved to southern Oregon in 1932 living the first year and a half at Logtown, on the highway between Ruch and Jacksonville, and went to the Forest Creek school, another one room school.

We left Buncom in the early summer of 1935 and moved to Seattle where my father had gotten a job in a shingle mill.

After reading the (Buncom) newsletter, it brought back memories which I just felt like putting on paper and sending you.

One last thing, the post office across the

(See COOKHOUSE, Page 4)

Mark Your Calendar:

SATURDAY, MAY 25:
BUNCOM DAY, 10 A.M. - 3 P.M.

SATURDAY, MAY 18:
WORK PARTY, 10 A.M. - NOON

Danielle's Question

The Internet is a wonderful place. You never know what you're going to find in your e-mail. Since our last newsletter, Danielle, a student somewhere -- she never said where -- saw the Buncom web page and wrote to ask for pictures and information for her school report. The Society President replied, and asked if she had any specific questions. She replied and asked for a "time line" of Buncom's history. Then she asked:

"What is the town currently doing to stay afloat economically?"

He admits that one had him scratching his head!

SONS (from Page 1)

d'oeuvres in the Sabroso Forum on the 2nd level of the theater (just tell the theater folks you're from Buncom), and at 8 p.m. the curtain goes up.

Tickets for the Sons' performance are $23.00. If you purchase them through the Society, 10% goes to Buncom. To get your tickets, call Lyn Hennion at 772-6826 or 899-7656.

The Buncom Register

Here are more writings from the Buncom Register gathered at our last Buncom Day. The Register will be available again this year at Buncom Day, and we hope everyone will contribute their thoughts about Buncom.

"After reading some of the historical documents, I believe Mr. Parks, my grandmother's brother, was the postmaster at Buncom. My grandparents were Mary & Frank Knox. They moved to Eastern Oregon (Fossil). Their older son, Homer, was born in the Applegate country.

"We used to come out to the Applegate to have dinner with my father's aunt, Lizzie Parks, who lived up the road from Buncom. She had two children (not my age) Hollis and Ella.

My parents were Leland and Elsie Knox of Medford." -- Lucille Knox Williamson

"Lillian Hukill (who owned Buncom from 1946-1989) used to complain about the dust clouds that rolled with the wind down the dirt Sterling Creek Road, across L.A. Road and into her open windows. When her house burned down for the second time, she decided to build on the hill above the road to avoid the dust." -- Chant Thomas

"First came to Buncom in 1947. It was a fun place to bring friends and relatives when they came to visit. Thank you for reviving the town and preserving the area history." -- Margaret Welk.

"My grandfather, Edward Cantrall, was born in Buncom in the 1890's." -- Ernie & Jane Conrad.

"Postmaster Melvin Parks of Buncom is buried up at Sterlingville Cemetery. Midway in historical area." -- Cheryl Henderson.

"We have lived in the Little Applegate for 12 years. We came to Oregon after Bill retired. We live on 40 acres." -- Loretta and Bill Shackelford

THANKS TO THESE NEW OR RENEWING MEMBERS

Fred & Joyce Vanderhoof, Sedona, AZ
Jim Laird, San Mateo, CA
William & Annie Vickery, Port Hueneme, CA
G.C. Wales, Yreka, CA
Bones & Barb Wright, Bodega Bay, CA
Halbert Bailey, Hayden, ID
Stuart & Nelle Schantz, Raleigh, NC
Albert Drexel, Greenville, NY
Larry & Donna Anderson, Jacksonville, OR
Steve & Mary Anderson, Central Point, OR
Glenn & Colista Bailey, Jacksonville, OR
Denni & Doug Bateman, Jacksonville, OR
Bob Bills, Medford, OR
John, Marguerite, Holly Black, Jacksonville, OR
Ida Gearon & Bruce Campbell, Jacksonville, OR
Delbert & Jeannine Cantrall, Jacksonville, OR
Celia Fulton & Len Carnighan, Jacksonville, OR
Don & Dee Coffman, Medford, OR
Lis Cooper & Doug Couch, Portland, OR
Ella Cross, Jacksonville, OR
Carroll & Lucille Cummins, Grants Pass, OR
Barbara & Paul Dallas, Jacksonville, OR
Albert Andress & Anna Davis, Jacksonville, OR
Edmund Dews, Ashland, OR
Gerald & Sharley Doran, Phoenix, OR
Chris Dudley, Salem, OR
Donna & Matthew Epstein, Jacksonville, OR
Mr. & Mrs. Lewis "Babe" Fields, Williams, OR
Don & Mary Flower, Jacksonville, OR
Ben & Connie Fowler, Jacksonville, OR
Brian & Sheri German, Medford, OR
Colleen Goldsmith, Jacksonville, OR
Pat Gordon, Jacksonville, OR
Dorann Gunderson, Medford, OR
Bonnie Guokas, Jacksonville, OR
Don & Patti Hall, Jacksonville, OR
Pam & Dave Hall, Gold Hill, OR
John & Cheryl Henderson, Jacksonville, OR
Doug Hennion, Eugene, OR
Reeve & Lyn Hennion, Jacksonville, OR
Tom & Evelyn Hennion, Medford, OR
Perry & Linda Hulse, Jacksonville, OR
Dale & Shirley King, Medford, OR
Carl & Barbara Krack, Jacksonville, OR
Mary Anne League, Sutherlin, OR
Haydn & Cora Lee, Jacksonville, OR
Dick & Rose Marie Leever, Medford, OR
Newt & Marge Likely, Jacksonville, OR
Chris Logan, Jacksonville, OR
Dick and Margot Loveland, Bend, OR
Bill & Susie Mackey, Gold Hill, OR
Regina Mainwaring, Jacksonville, OR
Jerry & Nancy McGrew, Jacksonville, OR
Warren & Audrey Merz, Jacksonville, OR
Jackie & Harlan Musch, Jacksonville, OR
Don Greene & Niki Newkirk, Ashland, OR
Bob & Charlotte Powell, Medford, OR
Questers Club, Grants Pass, OR
Sue & Peter Rasmussen, Medford, OR
Drummond & Deb Rennie, Jacksonville, OR
John & Tommi Retzlaff, Medford, OR
Dan & Diane Roberts, Medford, OR
J.B. & Carolyn Roberts, Jacksonville, OR
Marvin & Lilli Ann Rosenberg, Jacksonville, OR
Donald & Dorothy Ross, Jacksonville, OR
Phyllis Runals, Grants Pass, OR
Tom & Chris Russell, Jacksonville, OR
Steve and Mary Ryder, Medford, OR
Jane & Paul Sage, Jacksonville, OR
Charles Selberg, Ashland, OR
Don & Sandy Shaffer, Jacksonville, OR
Dennis & Norma Smith, Jacksonville, OR
Otto & Ginny Spechtenhauser, Jacksonville, OR
Fred & Martha Straube, Jacksonville, OR
Bill & Angela Thorndike, Medford, OR
Don & Elaine Turcke, Medford, OR
John & Cathy Watt, Medford, OR
Steve & Priscilla Weaver, Jacksonville, OR
Iris Wells, Medford, OR
G. Greeley Wells Jr., Jacksonville, OR
John & Evelyn Wigen, Jacksonville, OR
Clarence & Evelyn Williams, Jacksonville, OR
Gladys Williams, Medford, OR
Jim & Judy Wright, Medford, OR
Jeff & Betsy Hennion, Pittsburgh, PA
Kingsley & Diana Kelley, Lincoln, RI
Matt & Suzy Wiggins, & Katie, Odessa, TX
Rod Vanderhoof, Bumpass, VA

A SPECIAL THANKS ...

Along with their dues, several of our members sent additional donations. We would like to offer our additional thanks for their generous support:

Bones & Barb Wright
Matt & Donna Epstein
Brian & Shari German
Bob & Charlotte Powell
Doug & Denni Bateman
Don & Patsy Hall
Tom & Evelyn Hennion
Clarence & Evelyn Williams
John & Cathy Watt
Reeve & Lyn Hennion
Steve & Priscilla Weaver
Kingsley & Diana Kelley
Haydn & Cora Lee
Del & Jeannine Cantrall
Bob Bills

John & Cheryl Henderson
Don & Sandy Shaffer
Mary Anne League
Marvin & Lilli Ann Rosenberg
G. Greeley Wells Jr.
Lis Cooper & Doug Couch
Bonnie Guokas
Fred & Martha Straube
Drummond & Deborah Rennie

COOKHOUSE (from Page 1)

street was being used as a home for a fellow named Farley. I don't remember his first name nor what he did for a living, but he was a pleasant person and Dan and I used to spend a lot of time associating with him.

(Editor's note: Several years ago I had the opportunity to sit down with Dan Vanderhoof when he visited Buncom. He told me that he and Fred were 10-12 years old when they lived at Buncom he he called it "the best time of my life." He said the Cookhouse was partitioned into rooms when the family lived there, and he and Fred enjoyed living in the country and having the freedom to explore.)

DIRECTORS

Reeve Hennion, President 899-7656
Lyn Hennion

J.B. Roberts, Secretary 899-1125
Carolyn Roberts, Treasurer

Ben Fowler 899-7805
Connie Fowler

The Buncom Historical Society is a non-profit corporation dedicated to preserving the buildings and history of the ghost town of Buncom, Oregon. Society address: 3232 Little Applegate Road, Jacksonville, OR 97530.

On the Internet:
www.buncom.org

To join the Society, send $5.00 with your name and address to the Society at 3232 Little Applegate Road, Jacksonville, OR 97530.

It's Membership Renewal Time

It's time to renew memberships for the year 2002. Dues remain the same, $5.00 per family. For that princely sum you get a quarterly newsletter and the right to tell all your friends that you are members! Just fill out the form below and send it with $5.00 to the address at the bottom.

And here's something else to remember: If you're looking for an unusual and inexpensive Christmas gift, how about a Society membership?

BUNCOM HISTORICAL SOCIETY
MEMBERSHIP DUES

Here are my/our membership dues for 2002. Enclosed is $5.00 for an individual or family membership.

Here is my/our name as we would like it to appear on the mailing list:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, St, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Comments: _____

_____

_____

Mail to: Buncom Historical Society, 3232 Little Applegate Road, Jacksonville, OR 97530

BUNCOM HISTORICAL SOCIETY
3232 Little Applegate Road
Jacksonville, OR 97530

U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 33
Jacksonville, OR 97530
BULK MAIL

Eagle Point Hist. Society
P.O. Box 201
Eagle Point, OR 97524